

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1     1.     A method for creating and manipulating graphic charts, said method  
2     comprising:  
3             displaying graphic control devices that are controllable by a user to  
4     change numeric values of said graphic control devices;  
5             selectively associating said graphic control devices to a graphic chart  
6     to be created so that said numeric values of said graphic control devices correspond to  
7     chart components of said graphic chart; and  
8             displaying said chart components to create said graphic chart, said  
9     chart components visually representing said numeric values of said graphic control  
10    devices.

1     2.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2             changing a numeric value of a selected graphic control device of said  
3     graphic control device; and  
4             changing the size of one of said chart components that corresponds to  
5     said selected graphic control device to reflect said changing of said numeric value.

1     3.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2             deleting a selected graphic control device of said graphic control  
3     devices; and  
4             removing a chart component that corresponds to said selected graphic  
5     control device from said graphic chart.

1     4.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                 associating an additional graphic control device having a numeric  
3     value to said graphic chart; and  
4                 inserting an additional chart component into said graphic chart in  
5     response to said associating of said additional graphic control device, said additional  
6     chart component corresponding to said additional graphic control device such that  
7     said numeric value of said additional graphic control device is visually represented by  
8     said additional chart component.

1     5.     The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying of said graphic control devices  
2     includes programming said graphic control devices with at least one of text and  
3     numeric value.

1     6.     The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a chart key that  
2     corresponds to said graphic chart, said chart key including informational data  
3     associated with said chart components of said graphic chart.

1     7.     The method of claim 6 wherein said informational data associated with said  
2     chart components included in said chart key comprises one of label, color, relative  
3     percentage, and a numeric value

1     8.     The method of claim 6 further comprising:  
2                 changing an element of said informational data; and  
3                 changing related elements in said graphic control devices and said  
4     graphic chart in response to said changing of said element of said informational data.

1     9.     The method of claim 6 further comprising:  
2                 changing a numeric value of a selected graphic control device of said  
3     graphic control device;  
4                 changing the size of one of said chart components that corresponds to  
5     said selected graphic control device in response to said changing of said numeric  
6     value; and  
7                 changing said information data included in said chart key to reflect  
8     said changing of said numeric value.

1     10.    The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                 associating an additional graphic control device having a numeric  
3     value to said graphic chart and a second graphic chart; and  
4                 inserting a first additional chart component into said graphic chart and  
5     a second additional chart component into said second graphic chart in response to  
6     said associating of said additional graphic control device, said first and second  
7     additional chart components corresponding to said additional graphic control device  
8     such that said numeric value of said additional graphic control device is visually  
9     represented by said first and second additional chart components.

1     11.    The method of claim 10 further comprising:  
2                 changing said numeric value of said additional graphic control device;  
3     and  
4                 changing the size of said first and second additional chart components  
5     to reflect said changing of said numeric value.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying a first chart key that  
2 corresponds to said graphic chart and a second chart key that corresponds to said  
3 second graphic chart, said first chart key including first informational data associated  
4 with chart components of said graphic chart, said second chart key including second  
5 informational data associated with chart components of said second graphic chart.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:  
2 changing an element of said first informational data associated with  
3 said additional graphic control device; and  
4 changing related elements in said additional graphic control device,  
5 said graphic chart, said second graphic chart, and said second information data in  
6 response to said changing of said element of said first informational data.

1 14. A storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of  
2 instructions executable by said computer to perform method steps for creating and  
3 manipulating graphic charts, said method steps comprising:  
4 displaying graphic control devices that are controllable by a user to  
5 change numeric values of said graphic control devices;  
6 selectively associating said graphic control devices to a graphic chart  
7 to be created so that said numeric values of said graphic control devices correspond to  
8 chart components of said graphic chart; and  
9 displaying said chart components to create said graphic chart, said  
10 chart components visually representing said numeric values of said graphic control  
11 devices.

1 15. The storage medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 changing a numeric value of a selected graphic control device of said  
3 graphic control device; and  
4 changing the size of one of said chart components that corresponds to  
5 said selected graphic control device to reflect said changing of said numeric value.

1 16. The storage medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 deleting a selected graphic control device of said graphic control  
3 devices; and  
4 removing a chart component that corresponds to said selected graphic  
5 control device from said graphic chart.

1 17. The storage medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 associating an additional graphic control device having a numeric  
3 value to said graphic chart; and  
4 inserting an additional chart component into said graphic chart in  
5 response to said associating of said additional graphic control device, said additional  
6 chart component corresponding to said additional graphic control device such that  
7 said numeric value of said additional graphic control device is visually represented by  
8 said additional chart component.

1 18. The storage medium of claim 14 wherein said displaying of said graphic  
2 control devices includes programming said graphic control devices with at least one  
3 of text and numeric value.

1 19. The storage medium of claim 14 further comprising displaying a chart key  
2 that corresponds to said graphic chart, said chart key including informational data  
3 associated with said chart components of said graphic chart.

1 20. The storage medium of claim 19 wherein said informational data associated  
2 with said chart components included in said chart key comprises one of label, color,  
3 relative percentage, and a numeric value

1 21. The storage medium of claim 19 further comprising:  
2 changing an element of said informational data; and  
3 changing related elements in said graphic control devices and said  
4 graphic chart in response to said changing of said element of said informational data.

1 22. The storage medium of claim 19 further comprising:  
2 changing a numeric value of a selected graphic control device of said  
3 graphic control device;  
4 changing the size of one of said chart components that corresponds to  
5 said selected graphic control device in response to said changing of said numeric  
6 value; and  
7 changing said information data included in said chart key to reflect  
8 said changing of said numeric value.

1 23. The storage medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2 associating an additional graphic control device having a numeric  
3 value to said graphic chart and a second graphic chart; and  
4 inserting a first additional chart component into said graphic chart and  
5 a second additional chart component into said second graphic chart in response to  
6 said associating of said additional graphic control device, said first and second  
7 additional chart components corresponding to said additional graphic control device  
8 such that said numeric value of said additional graphic control device is visually  
9 represented by said first and second additional chart components.

1 24. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising:  
2 changing said numeric value of said additional graphic control device;  
3 and  
4 changing the size of said first and second additional chart components  
5 to reflect said changing of said numeric value.

1 25. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising displaying a first chart  
2 key that corresponds to said graphic chart and a second chart key that corresponds to  
3 said second graphic chart, said first chart key including first informational data  
4 associated with chart components of said graphic chart, said second chart key  
5 including second informational data associated with chart components of said second  
6 graphic chart.

1 26. The storage medium of claim 25 further comprising:  
2 changing an element of said first informational data associated with  
3 said additional graphic control device; and  
4 changing related elements in said additional graphic control device,  
5 said graphic chart, said second graphic chart, and said second information data in  
6 response to said changing of said element of said first informational data.